position to draw water for their fields due to continuous interruptions and load shedding. Non-availability of power for days together is posing a great problem. People in the villages are not even getting drinking water due to power shortage. So, will the Government consider providing sufficient funds for the Corporation to set up sub-stations irrespective of demands by the State Governments?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : It is an admitted fact that there is power shortage in the country. But if the State Governments are prepared to recommend the cases for the construction of more sub-stations, the Government of India will consider them sympathetically to do whatever it can

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, till date Rural Electrification Corporation has set up just 11 sub-stations of 132 KV each to help the State Governments. This has not been of much help in improving the power supply position in villages of backward areas. Will the Central Government give priority to the matter of setting up of sub-stations in backward areas while allocating funds to the corporation on receipt of proposals from the State Governments?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of the hon. Member is quite relevant. I assure him that the work of electrification of backward areas need to be taken up on warfooting and it will be definitely taken up.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, in view of the fact that nearly 3 lakh agricultural pumpsets' energisation is pending with the State of Andhra Pradesh, will the Rural Electrification Corporation provide more funds to see that at least a lakh of extra connections are given by the APSEB?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Sir, REC will consider this question when a proposal will come from the State Electricity Board.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[Translation]

Criteria for allotment of Petrol/Diesel/ LPG Agencies

*575. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and L. P. G. agencies at present; and

(b) the criteria adopted for their allotment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As on 1-4-91 there were 15056 retail outlet dealerships and 3902 LPG distributorships in various States and Union Territories.

(b) The allotments were made on the basis of marketing plans and policy from time to time.